The 2001 American Jewish Year Book, the 101st in the series, continues to offer a unique chronicle of developments in areas of concern to Jews around the world.

This year’s volume features three specially commissioned essays. Alvin H. Rosenfeld’s “The Assault on Holocaust Memory” assesses the recent calls for an end to public focus on the Nazi Holocaust, tracing the roots of this argument and warning of its potential consequences. Dana Evan Kaplan, in “The Jews of Cuba since the Castro Revolution,” provides a comprehensive update on a revived Jewish community that had last been chronicled in the Year Book almost 30 years ago. “Contemporary Jewish Music in America,” by Mark Kligman, treats the recent fascination with Jewish music and analyzes the new musical trends, religious and secular, placing the story within the context of the contemporary search for Jewish identity. The articles on Cuba and on Jewish music are accompanied by photographic inserts.

(Continued on back flap)
The American Jewish Committee acknowledges with appreciation the foresight and wisdom of the founders of the Jewish Publication Society (of America) in the creation of the American Jewish Year Book in 1899, a work committed to providing a continuous record of developments in the U.S. and world Jewish communities. For over a century JPS has occupied a special place in American Jewish life, publishing and disseminating important, enduring works of scholarship and general interest on Jewish subjects.

The American Jewish Committee assumed responsibility for the compilation and editing of the Year Book in 1908. The Society served as its publisher until 1949; from 1950 through 1993, the Committee and the Society were co-publishers. In 1994 the Committee became the sole publisher of the Year Book.
Preface

With volume 101, which covers the events of the year 2000, the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK begins its second century of publication. The first of three specially commissioned articles, Alvin H. Rosenfeld’s “The Assault on Holocaust Memory” assesses the recent trend calling for an end to public focus on the Nazi destruction of European Jewry. Professor Rosenfeld shows that this school of thought has serious negative implications for world Jewry and the State of Israel. Dana Evan Kaplan’s “The Jews of Cuba since the Castro Revolution” picks up the story of a Jewish community that has been absent from the pages of the YEAR BOOK since 1962, tracing the vicissitudes of the Cuban Jewish community since the revolution of 1959 and describing its current rebirth. “Contemporary Jewish Music in America,” by Mark Kligman, is the first article on Jewish music ever to appear in the YEAR BOOK. Professor Kligman analyzes the recent fascination with new forms of Jewish music and shows its connection to the broader issue of the search for Jewish identity in contemporary America.

For Jews, 2000 was a year of momentous events, and all of them are covered in the YEAR BOOK’s regular articles about Jewish life in the United States and other countries. Two were of particular importance. The breakdown of the Middle East peace talks and the Palestinian resort to violence are treated, in the YEAR BOOK, from the perspectives of Israel, American foreign policy, the American Jewish community, and other Jewish communities. A far happier event — the first major-party nomination of a Jew for vice president of the United States — receives coverage both for what it says about the role of Jews in American national politics and for what it demonstrates about Jewish perceptions of how “Jewish” a Jew in the public eye should be.

Updated estimates of Jewish population are provided for the United States and for the world. Carefully compiled directories of national Jewish organizations, periodicals, and federations and welfare funds, as well as obituaries and religious calendars, round out the 2001 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK.

We gratefully acknowledge the indispensable role played by Denise Rowe, our administrative assistant, in preparing the directories and the index, and the assistance of our colleagues, Cyma M. Horowitz and Michele Anish, of the American Jewish Committee's Blaustein Library.

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